

Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Prepared: 8/7/14
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P.O. Box 1520
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DOB: 10/20/11 Race: Biracial (B/W) Gender: F

Type of Report: X Fatality Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 8/31/12

Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 8/31/12

Summary of Allegations: On 8/20/12, a reporter informed SCDSS that a mother put her children in the bathtub, ran the water, did not turn the water off and left the room. When the mother returned to the bathroom, an eleven month old child was submerged in the water and was unresponsive.

Date Investigation Initiated: 8/31/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for neglect by the mother.

Date of Case Decision: 9/26/12

Basis for Case Decision: The case decision is based upon parent statements, case worker observations, medical records, and collateral contacts.

The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality

SCDSS placed the deceased child's sibling in the home of a relative pursuant to a Safety Plan. The parents were prohibited from having unsupervised contact with the deceased child's sibling.

Due to the severity of the case, SCDSS did not offer a plan for reunification. The agency decided to forego reasonable efforts to the family and did not provide services.

Custody of the children was awarded to the maternal grandmother. The case closed on 11/30/12.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. (Note: State law prohibits disclosure of information and records in unfounded cases.)

Summary of Allegations: On 7/28/08 SCDSS received a report concerning the mother delivering a baby at age seventeen while she was in foster care. The mother had no means of providing proper care for a newborn. She received little prenatal care and could not provide for her own needs or those of her newborn baby.

Case Decision: The case was indicated for substantial risk of neglect.

Date of Case Decision: 8/15/08

Basis for Case Decision: SCDSS indicated the case for substantial risk of neglect by the mother because the mother could not provide the child with adequate food, clothing or shelter.

The child was placed into foster care by an emergency removal order on 7/28/08.

The child was placed in the same foster home as the mother. The foster parent was a registered nurse that could assist with caring for the mother as well as the newborn.

The child was subsequently adopted and the case closed 12/13/11.